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## LINDA CARDELLINI IS STILL A 'FREAK'

The actress cracks up with Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg. 9

New 'comprehensive' trans guidelines. 4-5

NYPD COP KILLED IN AFGHAN BOMBING. 2

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# GONE BATTY



Was Odell Beckham Jr. threatened with a bat Sunday? Even if he was, he is costing his team big time. 15

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## 8-YEAR BAN FOR BLATTER

**1** FIFA President Sepp Blatter and UEFA boss Michel Platini, the two most powerful men in world soccer, were banned for eight years Monday for ethics violations, leaving the world's most popular sport rudderless in a sea of corruption cases. The pair, who were also fined, had been suspended in October while an investigation was carried out. **REUTERS**



## HOMELESS IN RAIN

**2** As Los Angeles grapples with a huge homelessness problem, El Niño weather patterns are likely to bring torrential downpours in coming months and add to the misery of the thousands of people who sleep on the city's streets. Los Angeles' homeless population is estimated at 44,000, with many of them concentrated in a bleak and chaotic square-mile patch of downtown known as Skid Row. **REUTERS**

**REUTERS**

## NEW TRIAL IN BALTIMORE

**3** A Baltimore police officer will face retrial on charges of manslaughter related to the death of Freddie Gray starting June 13, a Maryland judge ruled Monday, after the officer's first trial ended in a deadlocked jury. Officer William Porter was the first of six officers to be tried in connection with Gray's death. **REUTERS**



## BROOKLYN FIRE

**6** FDNY firefighters battle a 2-alarm fire on Skillman Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn on Monday. Crews were called to the multiple dwelling just before 4 p.m.

**THINGS YOU  
NEED TO KNOW**



MAIN PHOTO BY MILES DIXON, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

## ALIMONY CHECK INSULTS

**4** A New Jersey man is suing his ex-wife, claiming she harasses him by writing insulting terms on the memo line of the alimony checks she sends him. Francis Wagner, 61, said he has suffered emotional distress from his ex-wife's written insults, NBC reported, adding that the weekly alimony checks he receives sometime come with "bum" or "loser" written on the memo line. **JASON NUCKOLLS**



## NYPD DETECTIVE KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN SUICIDE BOMBING

**5** An NYPD detective died Monday while serving his third tour of duty with the U.S. Air National Guard. Detective Joseph Lemm was a 15-year veteran of the NYPD who served the city in the Bronx Warrant Squad. Over the course of the past decade, Lemm was deployed three times, serving active duty once in Iraq and twice in Afghanistan. He died Monday serving that second tour in Afghanistan. "Detective Joseph Lemm epitomized the selflessness we can only strive for," said Commissioner Bill Bratton in a statement, "putting his country and city first." Bratton added the entire NYPD grieved the loss of Lemm, whom he called "a selfless public servant who dedicated his life to protecting others." The NYPD said that Lemm leaves behind a wife and two children. **JOSH KRUGER**



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NYPD



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# 'Nightmare' for families in

Department of Homeless Services has fallen tragically short, says city comptroller after audit.



TRACY LEE  
@MetroNewYork  
letters@metro.us

Home to nearly 58,000 people, including 23,000 children, New York City's shelters have been a "daily nightmare" for families where conditions were "deplorable," said Comptroller Scott Stringer.

A recent audit shed light on where the Department of Homeless Services has "fallen tragically, horribly short," Stringer said at a press conference Monday.

"Many of them went to bed last night in dangerous, unprotected buildings and when they woke up this morning, DHS still had no plan in

place for getting them out of the shelter system and into permanent housing," Stringer said.

The audit — which sampled 101 randomly selected housing units of the city's 155 shelters serving families with children — focused on families placed in shelters in 2013 and 2014 who were still living in shelters in October of 2015.

It found that DHS allowed shelter providers to self-monitor facilities without oversight, failed to meet its own goal to transition families into long-term housing. According to the audit, oral agreements were made with shelters instead of written contracts.

Stringer highlighted a case example of a family with five children displaced by a fire. Put into a neighboring apartment, the family lived with the stench for more than a month, which came at a heavy health price. The children experienced frequent nosebleeds and their mother, who had asthma, ended up in the hospital from difficulty breathing, Stringer said.

*"It's very hard to see kids living in such filthy, unsafe conditions and not be shaken to the core."*

Stringer

Stringer's report comes as Mayor de Blasio embarks on a series of overhauls with policy and staff, such as last week's departure of his

commissioner of Homeless Services and the implementation of an aggressive program called HOME-STAT, a 90-day review of the organizational structure of DHS and last month's massive \$2.6 billion housing investment.

While the Stringer audit found 53 percent of the apartments had roaches, rodents and vermin, it also found 87 percent of the apartments had issues such as malfunctioning smoke detectors, blocked fire escapes, mold and mildew.

Citing citywide case samples that showed the "dreadful conditions" as well as gaps in fundamental security, Stringer talked about a building site that had a single guard stationed in the main building among 15 other buildings housing 300 families.

"Anyone can walk in right off the street



Homeless people sleep on the streets near Penn Station. GETTY IMAGES

and do whatever they please," Stringer said.

DHS officials told his auditors they relied on shelter systems to self-report because it was "not reasonable for

them to be aware of all shelter conditions."

Pinpointing the problem, Stringer said DHS was "horribly understaffed" — the audit found 14 program ana-

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## New detailed guidelines strengthen protection for trans New Yorkers

New York City is making sure all its residents are protected, whether at work, home or in public spaces.

The city Commission on Human Rights released Monday new guidance that clarifies what signifies gender identity and gender expression discrimination under the NYC Human Rights Law.

Even though discrimination based on gender identity and expression was made illegal in 2002, these new rules are expected to make clear what constitutes a violation.

"Laws that protect gender identity non-discrimination are essential, and it is detailed guidance like this that makes the promise of the law a reality in the everyday lives of transgender people," said

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "The New York City Commission on Human Rights' guidance provides a forward-thinking model on how these laws should be interpreted and enforced to help promote an environment of respect for all transgender New Yorkers."

The guidelines — which the city said will make the law the strongest in the nation in defending the rights of members of the transgender and gender nonconforming communities — list ways employers, landlords and business owners could be in violation of the law.

Some of the violations include intentionally failing to use an individual's preferred

name, pronoun or title; refusing to allow someone to use single-sex facilities such as bathrooms or locker rooms; enforcing dress codes, uniforms and grooming standards imposing requirement based on sex or gender; and failing to provide employee health benefits that cover gender-affirming care.

Violations of the law could lead to civil penalties of as much as \$125,000 for offenses and as much as \$250,000 for infractions that are the result of intentional, reckless or malicious conduct.

"New York has always been a diverse and welcoming city, and our laws are designed to protect every New Yorker, regardless of their gender identity," Mayor Bill de Blasio said. "Today's new guidelines



# shelters



in such filthy, unsafe conditions and not be shaken to the core," Stringer said. "There's absolutely no excuse for any of this."

Stringer called on de Blasio's administration to hire a deputy mayor to create a bold action plan on homelessness, and urged DHS to get its house in order so it can invest in staff and resources that will enable families to leave the shelter system.

"As part of the comprehensive operational review just announced by Mayor de Blasio, we will carefully consider the issues raised in the audit and other reviews of the department's operations so that we can continue to improve shelter conditions and safety and help more individuals exit shelter as quickly as possible," said Steven Banks, commissioner of the human resources administration.

lysts assigned to oversee 155 shelters with 12,500 families.

"I found this [audit] particularly upsetting... as a parent, it's very hard to see kids living



LGBT activist GETTY IMAGES

strengthen those laws by ensuring that every transgender and gender nonconforming person in New York receives the dignity and respect they deserve."

According to the Commission on Human Rights, about 25,200 transgender and gender nonconforming people live in New York City.

Based on a recent study, 75 percent of that population has reported harassment and mistreatment in the workplace, 20 percent has been refused a home, 17 percent were refused medical care and 53 percent were verbally harassed or disrespected in a public place.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO

## Three homeless men ready to sue city over alleged harassment

Three homeless men filed official notices Monday that they were preparing to sue the City of New York for harassment by police who cleared them out of their sleeping spaces and threw away their belongings.

"Homelessness is a tragedy, not a crime," said

Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, which is representing the men. "No matter how much pressure the city is under to address homelessness, all people deserve to be treated with basic humanity."

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has stepped up efforts to reduce homelessness in the largest city in the United States, which has one of the country's biggest homeless populations.

Floyd Parks, 61, Timmy Hall, 58, and Jesus Morales, 42, are seeking damages for mental and emotional distress and their trashed possessions, including a Social Security card, birth certificate and family photographs.

City Hall said the three men had illegally trespassed on school grounds to sleep and were not targeted as part of the city's encampment initiative or any other homeless outreach program.

"Our No. 1 priority in

street homeless outreach is to get individuals the shelter and services they deserve," De Blasio spokeswoman Karen Hinton said in a statement.

Hinton said the city would review its protocols for seizing and disposing of the personal property.

The New York Civil Liberties Union has said its legal action on Monday is the first step in a larger effort to end the supposed clampdown on the city's homeless. METRO

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## Santa comes early at Metro



Bernard, 20 months, opens his present from Metro Magic at a party on Saturday. Tony's Metro Magic is an annual toy drive for underprivileged children. NICOLAUS CZARNECKI



A sign of the times GETTY IMAGES

## New York City job count hits record

New report says there are 4.24 million jobs in NYC, the highest in city history, while unemployment remains at its lowest since 2007.

numbers for November, based on data from the New York State Department of Labor.

According to the data, between October and November of this year, the city added 12,600 private sectors jobs — a number “significantly larger” than in the previous years.

At the same time, the city's unemployment rate continues at 4.8 percent, which is its lowest level since February 2007.

“This administration's goal has been to provide greater opportunity for people in every neighborhood, and that's what these numbers show,” said Alicia Glen, deputy mayor for housing and economic development. “Our city is continuing to grow quality jobs for even more New Yorkers, and we will continue finding creative ways to expand and strengthen our economy.”

New York City gained a total of 103,100 private sector jobs — an increase

*“We will continue finding creative ways to expand and strengthen our economy.”*

Glen

of 2.8 percent — during the 12 months ending this November, according to the NYCEDC. This number is higher than the national growth rate, which was 2.2 percent, during the same time period.

In the last year, 27.4 percent of the private job growth came from the health care and social assistance sector, 11.4 percent from accommodation and food service, and 11.2 percent from finance and insurance.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO  
@MetroNewYork  
letters@metro.us

New York City seems to be in the record-breaking business lately.

Along with having the warmest December recorded, the Big Apple has also hit a record high in its job count with a total of 4.24 million jobs — the highest number in city history, according to the New York City Economic Development Corporation.

The NYCEDC, together with the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, released Friday an analysis of seasonally adjusted job

## Shoulder Arthritis Treatments Keeping Boomers Active Into Their 60's, 70's Even 80's?

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### BRIEF

#### Yom Kippur to be an official UN holiday.

The United Nations will recognize Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement as an official holiday. This is the first time in its 70-year history that the U.N. has recognized a Jewish holiday.

While Jewish newspapers The Times Of Israel and The Forward were eager to point out that Yom Kippur is now given the same status at the U.N. as Christian and Muslim holidays Christmas and Eid, this isn't entirely the case.

Yom Kippur will still not be given the same priority status for

full closure of the New York campus as American holidays Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day or Thanksgiving Day; Christian holidays New Year's Day, Good Friday and Christmas Day or Muslim holidays Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

However, no official meetings will take place on Yom Kippur, at the New York headquarters, in East Midtown. Staff members who choose not to work on Yom Kippur, will not miss important opportunities to vote in U.N. resolutions. Additionally, they will no longer have to take a sick day, or personal

day, at their own expense.

According to an internal memo from the UN's Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management, “In the interest of respecting the diversity of United Nations staff members, staff members may choose to observe [Yom Kippur as] one of the following six holidays as a floating holiday.”

Danny Danon, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, lauded the decision, and said, “There is finally an official place for the Jewish religion in the world's parliament.” SARA BRITTANY SOMERSET



# Painful Varicose Veins & Swollen Legs?



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## Christina Aguilera looking to ruin Gwen Stefani's 'Voice' fun

Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton may be doing their best to keep things steamy and headline-grabbing in their relationship while "The Voice" is on hiatus, but one of their colleagues is gearing up to spoil all the fun. Christina Aguilera is set to return to the hit show next season, with Stefani taking a break. And apparently, she's taking a special amount of pleasure in that aspect, according to Radar Online. "Christina said that it was her show and gave a really big spiel about how she thinks that Gwen used this Blake thing to try and stay on the show," a source close to "The Voice" says. "Now people are dreading her return."

Shelton had floated

the idea — jokingly, we think — of letting Stefani stay on along with Aguilera, bloating the coaching bench to five, but that's not happening.

"They have been switching the female judges on and off for over three seasons now, and it has nothing to do with how well Gwen is performing," the source explains. "As of right now, there are no plans to make it five judges on the show."

ALL PHOTOS  
GETTY IMAGES



## The Rock introduces his daughter to the world

It turns out that the Rock is a big softie. Actor, wrestler and perpetual cufflink-adjuster Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson had some big news yesterday, as he welcomed his first daughter, Jasmine. Johnson posted a photo to his Facebook page of the newborn on his massive, tattooed chest.



"Christmas came early! Within minutes of being born she was laying on daddy's chest. And being a grateful man takes on a whole new meaning," he writes. Oh, and if you wanted some TMI about the birth itself, Johnson's got you covered. "I was right there during labor, helping [Laura Hashain] breathe, every highly intense contraction, every second of pain, right

there watching the actual birth, cutting the cord and wiping the tears," he writes. "Now don't get me wrong, boys. It wasn't like I was at the end of the table, squatting like a catcher waiting for the fastball to come down the pike. But as men, it's a miracle we should witness because it'll give you a whole new respect for the strength and beauty of a woman."



@TheRock

Good mornin' from the South. Let's roll.. (don't worry about where we're going just get in the truck and don't touch my radio).



@AudraEqualityMc

Why did everyone bring pizza on this flight?!?! And more importantly why will no one share with me?



@rickygervais

At The Golden Globes I might read out the runner up first just to see them run up to the stage and start their speech.



@billyeichner

About to land in LA just asked a flight attendant what to do about Steve Harvey but no one knows what to do tough night



@WhitneyCummings

I'm dyslexic so when I try to 69 I just end up staring at a wall



@kirstiealley

I'm in Kansas cleaning my house like the wife I never wanted to be.. Merry Christmas



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# Cardellini back with the freaks

The "Freaks and Geeks" actor is back with funny boys in "Daddy's Home."



MATT PRIGGE  
@mattprigge  
matt.prigge@metro.us



GETTY  
IMAGES

Linda Cardellini can hang with the clowns. In her breakthrough role on "Freaks and Geeks," she acted alongside a slew of future comedic stars of the Apatow-verse. Since then, the 40-year-old actress has taken on more serious roles: a long stint on "ER," "Brokeback Mountain" and self-destructive types on "New Girl" and "Mad Men."

But with "Daddy's Home," she's back to playing the straight center of a raucous comedy. As Sarah, she has to deal with both



Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg play men vying for the attention of Linda Cardellini in "Daddy's Home." PARAMOUNT PICTURES

her current, uptight husband Brad (Will Ferrell) and the father of her children, Dusty (Mark Wahlberg), a bad boy who wants to reconnect with their kids, and with

her too. But Cardellini's Sarah — to the actress' delight — is over him.

**Given how long you've been acting alongside funny people, do you still blow takes by cracking up?**

Sometimes, for sure. I think it's hard for everybody. Sometimes it wasn't even in front of the camera. Someone behind the camera, even the director, would occasionally have a hard time keeping it together.

**I wouldn't say your character is just a killjoy — the classic shrewish wife who wants the boys to behave.**

Sean [Anders, the director] and I talked a lot about this. We wanted

to make sure she had more dimensions than a stereotypical wife character. I have no problem, playing the wife, because women are wives and daughters and sisters. I loved how she evolved from her younger days, that she isn't falling for [Dusty's] ridiculous bad boy charm anymore. And he and Brad were always talking about how wonderful my character is. [Laughs] That made me very happy.

**You've said you used to get people coming up to you, confusing you with the character you played briefly on "Boy Meets World," back in the '90s, who almost broke up Cory and Topanga. Did you have similar**

**experiences with people angry you were playing Sylvia, one of Don Draper's last mistresses on "Mad Men"?**

I did. People had a complex reaction to her relationship with Don, though. Some people were angry because it's the first time his affairs are found out by his daughter. But people had varied reactions to it.

**Was there one in particular that was weird for you?**

My mom called me and said my dad had to cover his eyes while he was watching. [Laughs] My mother was asking if I'd ever get out of bed with that man. It was the biggest part of my role, so I hoped not.

## Always a 'Freak'

**Have you watched "Freaks and Geeks" since becoming a mother?**

No, I haven't. It would be strange to watch it now as a parent. I always related to it from the child's point-of-view, from Lindsay's point-of-view. Now I would probably relate more to the parents and be terrified if Lindsay was

my daughter. [Laughs] I'd be so proud of her for being a good person, but less so that she goes over to the freaks, especially when she gets on that bus.

**I'm sure you wouldn't think, "Oh, it's cool that my daughter's following The Dead!"**

No way. I would have the police on the phone immediately.

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**"ABOUT A BOY"**

Hugh Grant and a young Nicholas Hoult bro out in "About a Boy." PROVIDED

Hugh Grant is one of those actors who doesn't get why people like him, which partially explains why he's done fewer than 10 movies since 2002's "About a Boy." It's a shame: Not only is Grant retro charming, but this dramedy — about a middle-aged rich kid (Grant) bonding with a latchkey actual kid (Nicholas Hoult) — seemed like a watershed moment for an actor who had been

typecast as either stammering rom-com heroes or jerks. "Boy" takes some big licenses with the Nick Hornby source, including completely ditching the Kurt Cobain-centered third act. But it's really driven by Grant's deeply felt performance, conveying his character's growing self-hatred at the non-life he's created for himself, which proves touching without being cloying. Ditto the rest of it.

**"PHOENIX"**

Nina Hoss gives one of 2015's best performances in "Phoenix," playing a concentration camp survivor worming her way into her old lover's life. IFC FILMS

One of the year's best films, this German drama features plastic surgery, fortune hunting and a transformation right out of "Vertigo." But "Phoenix" never seems preposterous, and always comes off cool and quietly devastating. Nina Hoss' Nelly is severely disfigured by her time in a concentration camp and finds herself, post-WWII, cozying up to the lover (Ronald Zehrfeld) who betrayed her to the Nazis. He doesn't recognize her, but he still involves her in a scheme to fleece her old family for an inheritance. Like his star, director Christian Petzold ("Barbara") keeps everything close to the vest, patiently building to a final scene that blows the lid off, and how.

**"BEDAZZLED"**

No one remembers the 2000 remake of this 1967 comedy, right? The one with Brendan Fraser as a palooka who gets some romantic aid by Satan herself (Elizabeth Hurley)? Good. Bad redos can tarnish brands, especially ones as rarified and odd as the first big movie for comedy duo Dudley Moore and Peter Cook, and the only one, alas, of any note. Sprightly and grouchy, "Bedazzled" also boasts Stanley Donen as its director, who by the late '60s had moved from the elegance of "Singin' in the Rain" and "Royal Wedding"



The 1967 comedy "Bedazzled" stars Peter Cook as Satan and Dudley Moore as his prey. PROVIDED

to quasi-experimental, giddily adopting such modern tics as crazy zooms and hyper-cutting. The episode where Cook's devilish Spiggott transports

Moore's Stanley into a live black-and-white music revue TV show features some of the era's most dazzling uses of the Cinemascope-shaped space.

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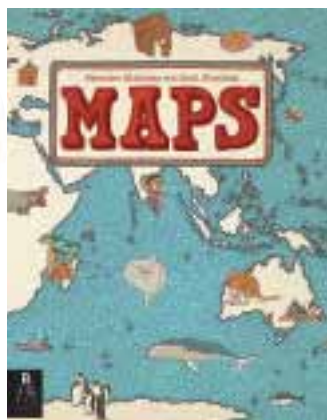


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# The biggest health trends of 2015

It's been a year of common sense winning over gimmicks and fearmongering. We look at the big changes in fitness and nutrition this year, and what they mean for the future. EVA KIS



## Ingredients get a rethink

Food companies, from fast-casual chains like Chipotle and Panera Bread to major brands like General Mills and Kraft, finally started ditching artificial ingredients and additives for natural ones, like annatto seed and paprika extract to give mac and cheese its yellow color. This was the next step in last year's trend of ditching low-fat products, which, while lower in calories, were usually not healthful. Real ingredients are winning out over marketing gimmicks, and that's a trend companies have recognized will continue to drive the way we eat.

## Protein is out, fiber is in

One of the few things our diets are not deficient in is protein, though you wouldn't know it from all the bars, powders, shakes and other supplements telling us to load up on it. But these "healthful snacks" often also come packed with sugar, preservatives and other things you don't want, while missing one vital nutrient that we are definitely lacking: fiber. To get its anti-inflammatory, circulation-boosting, cancer-fighting benefits, you'll have to load up on plant-based foods (which you should be eating more of anyway). Instead of a green juice, reach for a whole apple (the fiber is in the skin) and add more nuts, whole grains, legumes and dark leafy greens into your routine.



## HIIT in everything

Packed schedules mean we're always looking to maximize every minute, and this was the year that high-intensity intervals took over every style of workout. Getting more out of less time in the gym, without changing up what you're already doing too much is great, but will HIIT stick around? It's hard to say — the risk of injury is higher when you're pushing your limits, and there's a new emphasis on strength and stretching exercises that counteract sitting-related problems. All of which means HIIT might be better left to pro athletes.

## Sleep gets some respect

If there was one mantra being repeated by everyone from trainers to nutritionists and even mental health professionals, it was, "Get more sleep!" Without it, your ability to make long-term memories suffers, your heart doesn't get a much-needed break, and all those cheap calories you're eating to stay awake are wreaking havoc with your blood sugar, which could lead to diabetes. (Not to mention sleeping too little is killing your sex drive.) Aim for between seven and eight hours, but don't go below six.



## (Ancient) grains are in

The anti-gluten hysteria that has swept grocery stores meant anything with the word "grain" in it was suspect. The pushback over the past year, however, made way for delicious, lesser-known varieties of ancient grains like emmer, khorasan wheat and amaranth, whose nutty flavor and robust texture will make you swear off oatmeal. And grain bowls — which tend to be accompanied by fruit, yogurt and matcha rather than sweeteners — also make for beautiful Instas, which never hurts when starting a trend.



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# MALUSIS: BECKHAM SHOULD HAVE BEEN BENCHED BY COUGHLIN

## OPINION



**MARC MALUSIS**  
@marcmalusis

On Sunday, the Giants once again came up short as they rallied from 35-7 down in the second half to tie the game at 35, only to lose to the undefeated Carolina Panthers, 38-35, on a last-second, 43-yard field goal by Graham Gano.

Tom Coughlin said he was proud of the way his team fought back, but it is yet another last-second loss in a season that looks like it is lost with two games to go. I have defended Coughlin as Giants head coach when people have called for his job. He is a legendary Giants head coach who has won two Super Bowls and was the choice of the late Wellington Mara years ago.

But on Sunday, he stopped coaching in the second half. His star wide receiver, Odell Beckham Jr., embarrassed himself and the Giants organization with his behavior over the course of the



Odell Beckham Jr. will have the opportunity to appeal his one-game suspension. GETTY IMAGES

game. He was flagged for three personal foul penalties and countless other times was seen punching Carolina defensive players when the play was over and dangerously launched himself in the third quarter — leading with his helmet, into cornerback Josh Norman. Quite simply, he came undone.

A lot was made of the matchup heading in. Norman is widely considered

to be the best cover corner in the NFL. He played physical on Sunday, and certainly was chippy, but not to the level of Beckham.

This is not Giants football.

After the game Coughlin admitted that Beckham lost his composure and even said, "Did you want me to take him out of the game?"

Yes, Tom, that is coach-

ing. As Carl Banks called for it on WFAN during the game broadcast, I agreed with him.

I loved the pick by Jerry Reese when they selected him out of LSU with the 12th overall pick in the 2014 draft. He is a wonderful player and for the first 25 games of his career, nobody has been more productive in the history of the NFL as a wide receiver. In Game

26, however, he was an utter embarrassment.

There is no reasonable reason why referee Terry McAulay and his crew did not eject Beckham from the game. He will be fined heavily by the NFL this week and rightfully so.

Maybe Coughlin did not see him punching players repeatedly down the football field. Maybe he did not see him launch himself, helmet first, into Norman. If Coughlin did not pay attention to any of that, shame on him. If he saw it all and did nothing, shame on him as well.

The Giants are a proud and historic NFL franchise and there is something to the notion of playing the right way. Sunday was not the Giant way. It has not been the Coughlin way over the course of his stewardship. Coughlin would have shown great strength to make that tough decision with quite possibly his coaching career on the line. He sided with the talent and he still lost. That should be a lesson for everyone, even a fleeting one. Coughlin would have earned more respect from me if he

## One more thing

The source of Odell Beckham Jr.'s rage on Sunday may have been rooted from some pregame antics by Josh Norman and the Panthers. A Panthers player in street clothes brought a black wooden bat onto the field prior to the game and some threats were made to Beckham, according to reports. A video released by Fox Sports showed Norman with the baseball bat prior to the game. Fox reported that the Panthers use the bat to symbolize "bringing the wood."

ESPN reported Monday that Beckham was suspended one game for his actions in Sunday's game against Carolina. The Giants play at the Vikings this Sunday.

made the decision to take Beckham out of the game.

Beckham is an emotional young man and needs to be shown what it means to be a Giant. You can be emotional, but you play the right way. Coughlin should have known better. He does. He didn't on Sunday.

## NBA power rankings | by James Toscano

No. 1



### Warriors (26-1)

I have absolutely no problem with Klay Thompson saying he's the best shooting guard in the NBA. First of all, on any night he absolutely can be. Second, that's the attitude every player should have. Confidence goes a long way.

No. 2

### Spurs (23-5)



Here's a stat that might shock you. For as great as the Warriors have played this season, their margin of victory is virtually the same as the Spurs, as the Warriors outscore opponents by 13.4 ppg compared to the Spurs' 13.2.

No. 3

### Cavs (18-7)



Oh happy day for the Cleveland Cavaliers, who had themselves a nice little Sunday Funday with the return of Kyrie Irving, who played his first game of the season. This is bad news for the rest of the East, which has remained close up until this point.

No. 4

### Thunder (18-9)



The Thunder beat up on the Lakers (minus Kobe) by 40 points over the weekend. Lakers head coach Byron Scott said his team was "scared" and "in awe" of the Thunder. I believe it — the Thunder can be that good.

No. 5

### Pacers (16-10)



The Pacers beat the Raptors, and the Raptors beat the Heat. So here we are with these three teams that should fight for that No. 2 seed all season long. Bonus points to the Pacers for also beating the Mavericks last week.

No. 6

### Heat (16-10)



Hassan Whiteside is just a beast in the paint. He already has nine games this season with five blocks. No other player has more than three of those games this season. I pity the opposing guard who finds himself in the paint.

No. 7

### Hawks (17-12)



Back-to-back fourth-quarter comebacks for the Hawks on the road over the Celtics and Magic. Add in an easy win over the 76ers, and the Hawks have matched their longest winning streak of the season.

No. 8

### Raptors (17-12)



So the Raptors beat the Heat on the road by double digits and followed it up with a loss to the Kings at home by double digits? I know Kyle Lowry was ejected in the Kings game, but that still doesn't add up.

No. 9

### Mavs (15-12)



The Mavs got some much needed help from Chandler Parsons and Javale McGee in their win over the Grizzlies. If those two players can take on bigger roles going forward, the Mavs should stay somewhere in that No. 4-No. 5 seed area.

No. 10

### Bulls (15-10)



So the Bulls went from superintense Tom Thibodeau to laid-back Fred Hoiberg and naturally aren't adjusting that easily. Now Jimmy Butler says he and his teammates need to be coached a lot harder by Hoiberg.

No. 11

### Clippers (16-12)



The Clippers have beaten exactly one Western Conference contender this season, and it's the Grizzlies (who are dealing with their own issues). They just dropped their last two games to the Spurs and Rockets on the road.



After a red-hot start to the season, the Rangers have fallen into second place in the Metropolitan Division, eight points behind the first-place Capitals. GETTY IMAGES

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# Rangers don't have an explanation for recent ugly play

New York has lost 11 of its last 14 games and is in an uncharacteristic slide.

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Happy Holidays?

Not for these New York Rangers.

"We are in a tough stretch," Mats Zuccarello said after the Rangers were decisively outclassed by the Capitals, 7-3, Sunday night at the Garden. Dating back to Nov. 25, the Rangers have lost 11 of 14.

"There is not too much to say. Everyone in here knows we have to be better."

Going back to the 5-1 loss to Montreal on Nov. 25, the Rangers have been outscored by an aggregate 53-35.

"I know that this group knows how to defend and can defend," Alain Vigneault said. "We are obviously not doing it at this point in time."

Unlike earlier in the season in which the team's structural flaws were being masked by

superlative goaltending play, Henrik Lundqvist's play has slipped—by his own admission.

Lundqvist was pulled for the second time in three games—and for the third time overall this season—against Washington. Lundqvist allowed five goals on 24 shots. The five goals against tied a season high for Lundqvist; he allowed five goals to Montreal on Nov. 25 and again in Edmonton on Dec. 11.

"I need to come up with that extra save," Lundqvist said. He was replaced by Magnus Hellberg, who made his NHL debut in the third. Hellberg was called up from AHL Hartford on Friday after the Rangers lost backup Antti Raanta to a head injury after he was struck by a shot in the first period of the 5-2 loss to Minnesota on Dec. 17.

"I don't really have a good explanation, Lundqvist said. "When bad things happen we get out of structure a little bit and give up chances. I have to look at my own game. I can't just look at the team game. I have to be better. I know that. We all know that. I think

I had stretches through the last few games where I played well and I did the right things, but there are also times when I have to come up with that extra save and turn the game around. I am doing everything I can right now to get to that level. It's a game where there are some open chances. I just have to deal with that, play it the right way and not question anything or my instincts."

The Rangers have one game remaining before the Christmas break, Tuesday night at the Garden against Western Conference-worst Anaheim, and old friend Carl Hagelin. The Ducks are coming off of a 2-1 win over the Devils on Saturday night, and played the Islanders at Barclays Center for the first time Monday.

"We have to get out of this stretch somehow," Zuccarello said. "It is frustrating right now but at the same time nothing is going to get better if you keep thinking negatively. You have to stay positive and believe in each other and back each other up."

"The guys in the room, we have to be better. Everyone knows that."



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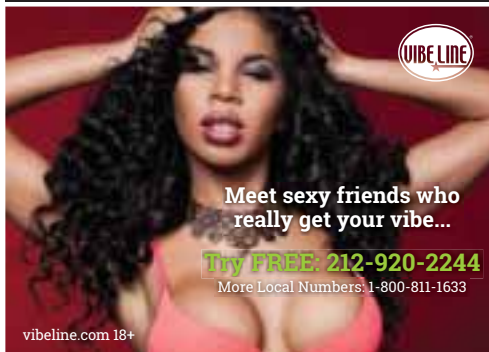


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## metro.us/horoscopes

- Aries** Don't go into battle with someone who just wants the best for you. Self-discipline and changes that could improve your image will pay off.
- Taurus** If you aim high, you will finish what you start. Picking up odds and ends for the upcoming festivities will get you in the spirit of the season.
- Gemini** Stay focused or you will misinterpret a situation or offer. Read between the lines and don't leave anything to chance.
- Cancer** Put your heart into making your home ready for the holiday season. Spending time with friends, family or children will brighten your day.
- Leo** Control your emotions and avoid getting into a spat. At work and at home, you are best off keeping the peace. Make personal improvements.
- Virgo** If you control whatever situation, you will be deemed a hero. Your insightful way of handling others will result in an unexpected surprise.
- Libra** Don't run yourself ragged trying to take care of demanding people who have little concern for your well-being. Focus on yourself.
- Scorpio** Your imagination will lead you in a wonderful direction. Creative ideas will help you incorporate comfort and convenience into your living quarters.
- Sagittarius** Bring about changes that will improve your life. Put an end to bad habits and unsavory influences. Choose your lot in life.
- Capricorn** Relationships will develop through networking functions and social activities. Attend an industry party and explore the possibilities.
- Aquarius** You'll have some good ideas that, once developed, will help you bring in extra cash. Take action and discuss your plans with someone.
- Pisces** Offer your help to a cause you believe in. Find out what you can do to assist older relatives during the taxing festive season. **EUGENIA LAST**

## metro.us/sudoku

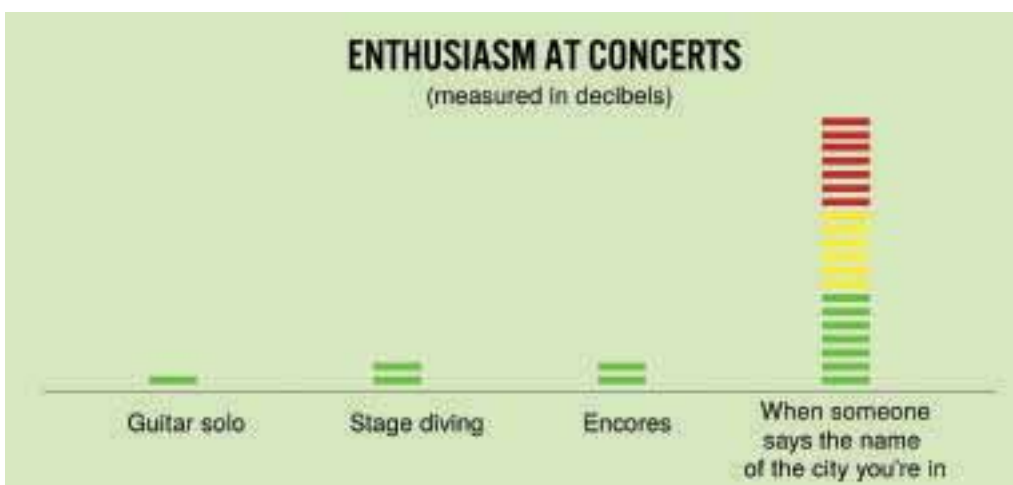
easy

5			4			3		2
	8		1	3	9			5
	4		2					
	9	1	8			2		
		5			6	9	8	
					8		3	
2			6	4	1		5	
8		9			3			4

hard

6							4	
	2	1						
4	9		6	1	5		7	
9			1	5	6			
	7			4			5	
			8	3	7			1
	5		7	9	3		1	4
						3	6	
	1							5

## metro.us/truthfacts



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## metro.us/quiz



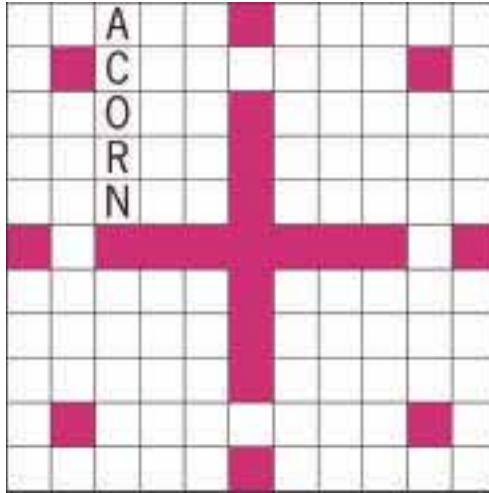
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## metro.us/games

## fill-ins

Place all the words listed into the grid. Each word can be used once only. The first word has been filled in.



## 5 Letters

Acorn  
Allow  
Atone  
Audio  
Bares  
Befit  
Berth

Blast  
Champ  
Conga  
Crack  
Elect  
Flute  
Issue  
Kneel

Lathe  
Liars  
Lumps  
Media  
Merge  
Ogles  
Penal  
Rabbi

Rains  
Reuse  
Royal  
Slash  
Slosh  
Steed  
Tweed  
Usual

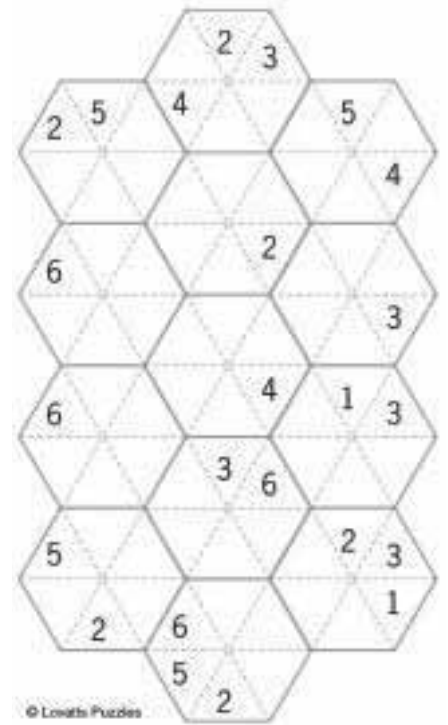
## Years

## 7 Letters

Concise  
Inspect  
Studios  
Teenage

## hexoku

Fit the numbers 1 to 6 into each hexagon so that where the hexagons touch, the numbers are the same. No number is repeated in any hexagon.



## metro.us/crossword

## Across

1 Media star  
6 Peteman  
10 Customs request  
14 Related to Mom  
15 007's alma mater  
16 Wayfarer's refuges  
17 Raised, as a question  
18 Kauai feast  
19 Peel of thunder  
20 Clairvoyance  
21 Fat, to a chemist  
23 Dance moves  
24 First veep  
26 Origins  
27 Mini-vise (hyph.)  
29 — -de-lis  
31 Sketch  
32 Ram, in astrology  
33 Tackle a slope  
36 Sporadic (hyph.)  
40 Toady's answer  
41 Find quarters  
42 Makes a choice  
43 Blair and Danza  
44 High-fliers (2 wds.)  
46 Pizzerias' needs  
48 Inca's — Picchu  
49 Fully conscious  
50 Oater action  
52 — -Magnon man  
55 Treasure-hunt aid  
56 Marble streak  
57 Set a price  
59 Blanc and Gibson  
60 Smokehouse hangers  
61 Castle that danced  
62 Grammy winner — James  
63 Do some welding  
64 More unusual

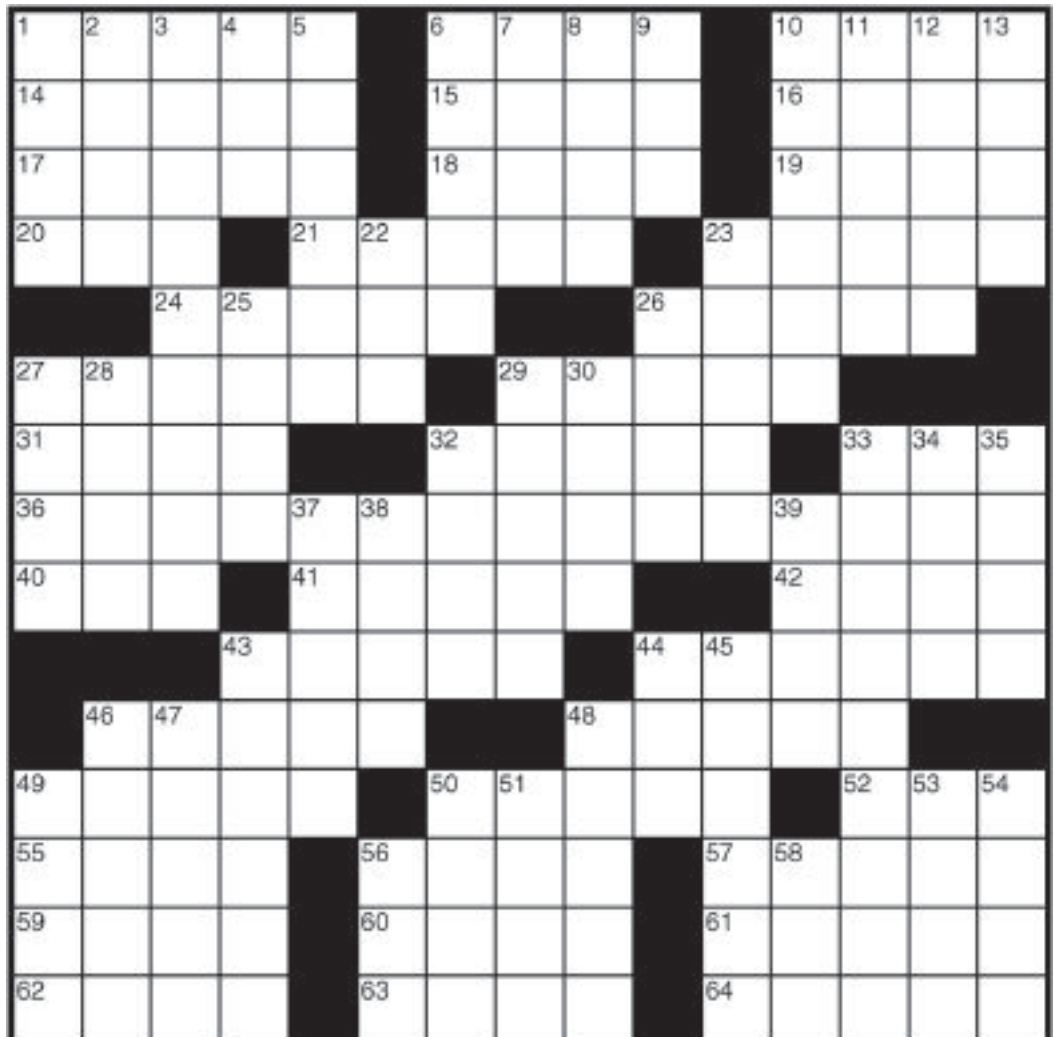
3 Canary Islands port (2 wds.)

4 Yves' summer  
5 Chaos  
6 Barks excitedly  
7 Sewing kit  
8 Egg on  
9 Veld grazer  
10 Pianist — Borge  
11 Cove  
12 Purse closers  
13 Deadly snakes  
22 Baby sitter's bane  
23 Marching band composer  
25 Consarn it!  
26 Lagoon protector  
27 Jade  
28 Film  
29 Swamp chorus  
30 Carbon-based forms  
32 Gibb or Rooney  
33 Kind of woodpecker  
34 Wind catcher  
35 Part of MIT  
37 Solo  
38 Charged particles  
39 Roman invader  
43 Nobelist nun  
44 Chat  
45 Cream-filled pastry  
46 Young screacher  
47 Bank feature  
48 Pastor's abode  
49 Summit  
50 Admirer  
51 Tire supports  
53 Descartes' name  
54 Baltic tributary  
56 Channels 2-13  
58 Madrid Mme.

## Down

1 Mushroom  
2 "Dukes of Hazzard" deputy

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Dr. Jo Ellen  
Mays  
Mary E. Bower, M.D.  
and  
Others



A pregnant woman with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing a maroon cardigan over a striped shirt, sits on a couch. She has a weary expression. A purple mug is on a table in front of her. The background is a blurred window.

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CHILLS.  
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